

Jacob and Mintie Miller House II
202 Coleridge Avenue
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5878

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
144-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JACOB AND MINTIE MILLER HOUSE II

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
144-
HABS No. PA-5878

Location: 202 Coleridge Ave.

Date of Erection: 1921

Description: Although roughly contemporary with John Seeds's speculatively built brick bungalows at 204 and 204A Coleridge Ave., this clapboard, side-gabled example of the genre was an individual effort and exhibits more individualized, Craftsman detailing. The facade is symmetrical, with large three-part cottage windows flanking the entry and a centered dormer in the half story with three evenly spaced windows. The front door and windows extend to the porch ceiling, and wide, simple wood moldings emphasize their verticality. Smaller square lights above long, rectangular panes accent the size and height of the windows. Battered brick columns frame the full porch, allowing a horizontal expanse further enhanced by the simple open porch rail and low, square brick piers flanking the front steps. Exposed rafters under the porch eave and shingles on the shed dormer are rustic elements. Unlike its neighbors, this bungalow occupies a full lot, allowing a driveway and garage.

History: John Baird, who built the house at 200 Coleridge Ave., sold this portion of his corner lot to William Metzgar, a pattern maker for the PRR, in 1906 for \$450. Metzgar held the empty lot until June 1921, when he sold it to Jacob and Mintie Miller. The deed for this transaction specifies a dwelling, but Metzgar was only taxed for a vacant lot in Llyswen in 1921. Miller, who lived at 103 Logan Blvd., was a very active small-scale land speculator and developer in the area. He sold the property six months later to J. T. and Alice Meredith, proprietors of Meredith's Drug Store at 1106 11th St., who were taxed in 1922 for a portion of lot 1, block 15 and a house, with an assessed value of \$2,000. It is likely that Miller had the house built in the latter half of 1921. The Merediths lost the house, which they used as a rental property, to a savings and loan company in 1937, which sold it to Carl T. and Helen Meyer in 1941 for the fulfillment of \$4,100 in mortgages. Carl Meyer was a sales auditor for the Pennsylvania Electric Company. In 1966 Helen Meyer, a widow, sold the bungalow for \$15,500. It last sold in 1975 for \$28,000.

Sources: Maps: 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 170/330, 172/202, 289/300, 294/118, 373/502, 437/260, 459/590, 851/273, 852/484, 908/270, 972/866.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.